

Application No.: 10/774,344
Filing Date: February 6, 2004

Amendments to the Drawings

The enclosed sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 1-3. These sheets, which includes FIGS. 1-3, replaces the original sheets including FIGS. 1-3.

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the support comprises a porous noncompressible solid material. Support for this amendment can be found at page 4, lines 12-14. Claims 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 20 have been amended to change the word "solid" to "material." Support can be found in original claim 1.

Specification Amendments

The specification is objected to because a section entitled BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS is not present and because the patent number cited on page 3, line 4, is incorrect. The specification has been amended to insert the section BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS and to identify the patent as U.S. Pat. No. 5,599,453.

Drawing Amendments

The drawings are objected to because the word within the shaded block that represents the support material is illegible. Enclosed herewith are revised FIGS. 1, 2 and 3.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-28, 31 and 32 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-24 of U.S. Patent No. 6,689,715. A terminal disclaimer over U.S. Patent No. 6,689,715 is enclosed obviating the double patenting rejection.

Claims 17-19, 23, 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 on the grounds that they are either not enabled or are indefinite. Claims 17-19, 23, 29 and 30 have been canceled thereby obviating this rejection.

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The 112 Rejection

Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, and claims 23, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. These claims have been canceled. Applicant reserves the right to file these claims in a continuing application.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that the pending claims are patentable and a prompt Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

Dated: _____

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